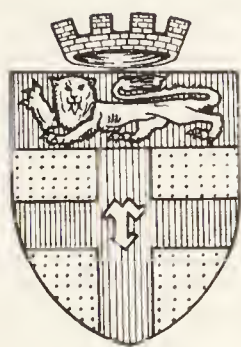


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CITY OF ROCHESTER



A N N U A L R E P O R T
of the
M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H
of the
P O R T O F R O C H E S T E R

1961





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PORT OF ROCHESTER

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PORT MEDICAL OFFICER FOR 1961

Members of the Port Health Committee 1961/62

Chairman - Councillor G A Tickner
The Mayor - Councillor I. J. Phillips, J. P.
The Deputy Mayor - Councillor M. H. Cole
Alderman H. R. Swain
Alderman C. H. R. Skipper
Alderman W. Wilkinson J. P.
Alderman J. D. May
Councillor F. C. Burton, J. P.
Councillor F. Corry
Councillor G. A. Page
Councillor L. A. M. Owen
Councillor C. W. Frid
Councillor G. T. Cheeseman
Councillor S. Fry
Councillor A. M. Dawson
Councillor H. J. Broughton
Councillor A. Towning
Councillor D. J. Weller
Councillor L. E. D. Darley
Councillor H. F. Martin
Councillor C. B. Durrant, J. P.
Councillor J. H. L. Morgan
Councillor Lt. Col. W. H. West, M. B. E., C. C.

AREA OF JURISDICTION

From Hawkwood (between Snodland and Aylesford) to Colemouth Creek, including all creeks, civilian docks and land up to the high water mark in the area between these two points a distance of some 18 miles

RIPARIAN AUTHORITIES WITHIN THE PORT OF ROCHESTER

Rochester Municipal Borough
Chatham Municipal Borough
Gillingham Municipal Borough
Malling Rural District
Strood Rural District
Swale Rural District

1. Staff.

TABLE A.

Name of Officer	Nature of Appointment	Date of Appointment	Qualifications	Any other Appointments held
L.F. McWilliams	Port Medical Officer	17.4.1959	M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H	Medical Officer of Health - City of Rochester; Borough of Chatham; Strood R.D.; Medical Referee, Medway Crematorium.
R.G. Brennen	Deputy Port Medical Officer	17.3.1952	M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.	Deputy Medical Officer of Health - City of Rochester; Borough of Chatham; Strood R.D.; Assistant County Medical Officer, Deputy Medical Referee, Medway Crematorium.
C.H.N. Evans	Port Health Inspector	1.7.1934	C.S.I.E.J.B., C.M.I., A.R.I.N.A.	
R.S. Lane	Part Time Deputy Port Health Inspector.	1.1.1961	C.S.I.E.J.B., C.M.I.	District Public Health Inspector.

Medical Officer of Health, 70, Maidstone Road, Rochester. Tel: Chatham 46121

II. Amount of Shipping entering the District during the year.

TABLE B.

Ships from	Number	Tonnage	Number Inspected		Number of ships reported as having, or having had during the voyage, infectious disease on board
			By the Port Medical Officer	By the Port Health Inspector	
Foreign Ports	868	453,073	3	714	1
Coastwise	458	212,537	-	359	-
Total	1326	665,610	3	1,073	-

III. Character of Shipping and Trade during the Year.

TABLE C.

(a) PASSENGER TRAFFIC.

Number of Passengers INWARDS) Only passenger traffic in Port is day trips
 Number of Passengers OUTWARDS) during Summer to adjacent seaside resorts.

(b) CARGO TRAFFIC

Principal IMPORTS - Agricultural and Horticultural Produce, various tinned foods, beer, wines, spirits, machinery, fertilizers, china clay, wood pulp, timber, oil, coal and maize starch.

Principal EXPORTS - Cement, bitumen, diesel and gas oils, scrap iron.

(c) PRINCIPAL PORTS FROM WHICH SHIPS ARRIVE.

Foreign - Hansweert, Ymuiden, Rotterdam, Kotka, Kemi, Sandarne, Kragero, Maasluis, Sande, Monsteraas, Sumdsvall, Hango, Gottenburg, Porsgrund, Leixoes, Chandler, Dunkirk, Boulogne.

Coast - Cornish clay and stone Ports, Blyth, Hartlepool, Arbroath, Montrose and Newburgh.

IV. Inland Barge Traffic.

Not applicable to this Port.

V. Water Supply

1. (a) FOR THE PORT.

No Change

(b) FOR SHIPPING.

NO Change

2. REPORT OF TESTS FOR CONTAMINATION.

24 samples of the Chatham and District Water supply and 26 samples of the Strood Water supply were taken for bacteriological examination. The results proved them to be good waters.

3. PRECAUTIONS AGAINST CONTAMINATION OF HYDRANTS AND HOSEPIPES.

No Change

4. NUMBER AND SANITARY CONDITIONS OF WATER BOATS, AND POWERS OF CONTROL BY THE AUTHORITY.

No Change

VI. Public Health (Ships) Regulations, 1952 to 1961.

1. LIST OF INFECTED AREAS.

No Change

During the year one ship from a "listed" country was passed through the Port of London (Sheerness) and proceeded to the Port of Rochester under partial pratique. However, there was no illness aboard nor had there been during the voyage.

2. RADIO MESSAGES.

No Change

3. NOTIFICATIONS OTHERWISE THAN BY RADIO.

No Change.

4. MOORING STATIONS.

No Change

5. ARRANGEMENTS FOR: -

(a) Hospital accommodation for infectious diseases (other than smallpox).

No Change

(b) Surveillance and follow up of contacts.

No Change

(c) Cleansing and disinfection

No Change

VII. Smallpox

1. Hospital to which smallpox cases are sent:-

Long Reach Hospital, Dartford. Tel. Dartford 3231.

2. Transport of smallpox cases to hospital.

This is provided by the London County Council Ambulance Service. Tel. Waterloo 3311.

Application is made by telephone and written confirmation sent to the County Medical Officer, County Hall, London.

3. Consultants Available.

Dr. J. P. Marsden)

Dr. W. J. Coughlan) River Hospitals, Joyce Green, Dartford, Tel. Dartford 3231.

4. Laboratory Diagnosis Facilities.

Specimens for Laboratory diagnosis would be sent to the Virus Reference Laboratory, Colindale Avenue, Colindale, London N.W.9 Tel. Colindale 7041.

VIII. Venereal Disease.

No Change

IX. Cases of Notifiable and other Infectious Diseases on Ships.

TABLE D.

Category	Disease	Number of cases during the year		Number of ships concerned
		Passengers	Crew	
Cases landed from ships from foreign ports	Pneumonia	-	1	1
Cases which have occurred on ships from foreign ports but have been disposed of before arrival	-	-	-	-
Cases landed from other ships	-	-	-	-

X. observations on the occurrence of malaria in ships.

The bulk of the shipping is from Scandinavian, Netherlands and French Ports and to a lesser extent from North American Ports. Tankers from the Venezuelan Port are loaded at jetties extending well out into the sea, thus malaria is not generally met with. There have been no cases aboard ships entering the Port of Rochester during the year.

XI. Measures taken against ships infected with or suspected for plague.

No infected or suspected vessels have arrived during the year.

XII. Measures against rodents in ships from foreign ports.

(1) PROCEDURE FOR INSPECTION OF SHIPS FOR RATS.

As a routine Deratization or Deratization Exemption Certificates are examined and further course of action is determined as a result of such inspection. When inspecting crews' quarters, etc., a general enquiry is usually enough to discover the presence of rats on board. Some seamen complain very readily if they know of rats on board the ship.

Cargo workers are a good source of information. The trade in which the vessel has been engaged since her last Deratization, or date of Deratization Exemption Certificate was issued is an important factor in determining what further inspection should be carried out. Cargoes of wood pulp and pulp wood have little attraction for rats and vessels engaged constantly in this trade are not often infested; if rats are found they are generally confined to a peak or store room and are not distributed throughout the ship.

On the other hand a ship that has been employed for some time in carrying grain, or has carried out a long trip with such a cargo, merits further investigation particularly if her rat certificate is nearing its expiratory date. Such cargoes, at present, do not arrive in this Port but occasionally large vessels which have carried such cargoes arrive empty to load cement.

(2) BACTERIOLOGICAL OR PATHOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF RODENTS.

There is no rodent operator permanently on Port work but, in cases when it is deemed necessary the shore rodent operator is employed in order to obtain specimens of rats for bacteriological examination.

(3) DERATIZATION OF SHIPS.

For the issue of International Deratting Certificates an arrangement exists under Article 4 of the Port Health Regulations 1933 whereby the local Port Health Inspector carries out the inspection and forwards the report to the London Port Health Authority for issue of the certificate. If it should be necessary to derat a ship by fumigation, the firm employed would be that approved by the London Authority. In other cases of deratting, poisons, traps and sulphur are the methods in use.

Deratting Exemption Certificates are issued by the Port of Rochester. When inspecting a vessel for the issue of a Certificate in accordance with Article 52 of the International Sanitary Regulations the inspection is carried out as required by the regulations governing the issue of such a certificate. The whole vessel from peaks, holds and engine room to chart and wireless rooms is inspected and report is made on harbourage, specifying the particular harbourage found in each compartment.

(4) RAT-PROOFING OF SHIPS.

There are no vessels, other than naval vessels, built in this Port and measures concerning rat-proofing are confined to dealing with existing rat-proofing which has suffered damage on board vessels in service and inspecting rat-proofing on the smaller vessels undergoing repair and refit in local repair yards.

TABLE E

RODENTS DESTROYED DURING THE YEAR IN SHIPS FROM FOREIGN PORTS.

Category	Number
Black rats	Nil
Brown rats	„
Species not known	„
Sent for examination	„
Infected with Plague	„

TABLE F

DERATTING CERTIFICATES AND DERATTING EXEMPTION CERTIFICATES ISSUED DURING THE YEAR FOR SHIPS FROM FOREIGN PORTS.

No. of Deratting Certificates issued					No. of Deratting Exemption Certificates Issued	Total Certificates Issued
After Fumigation with		After Trapping	After Poisoning	Total		
HCN	Other fumigant (state method)					
1.	2	3	4	5	6	7
Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	42	42

12 Deratting Exemption Certificates were also issued to British Coastwise Vessels making occasional trips to Continental Ports.

No Rodent Control Certificates were issued.

xiii. Inspection of Ships for Nuisances

TABLE G

INSPECTIONS AND NOTICES.

Nature and number of Inspections	Notices served		Result of Notices
	Statutory Notices	Other Notices	
British Vessels 391	Nil	26	25 Complied
Foreign Vessels 682	Nil	18	18 Complied
River Craft 98	Nil	11	10 Complied

xiv. Public Health (Shellfish) Regulations 1934.

No Change

xv. Medical Inspection of Aliens

Rochester is not an approved Port for the landing of aliens.

xvi. Miscellaneous.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE BURIAL ON SHORE OF PERSONS WHO HAVE DIED ON BOARD SHIP FROM AN INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

No Change

RIVER SAMPLES.

In conjunction with the Kent River Board 42 samples of river water were taken for chemical analysis.

CASES OF SICKNESS ON BOARD VESSELS ARRIVING IN THE PORT.

One case of pneumonia which was transferred to hospital.

One accidental death in fire outbreak aboard a ship in the Port.

FOOD INSPECTION.

During the year 211 complete cargoes of foodstuffs arrived in the Port:-

Onions	23	Sugar	17	Oranges	6
Wheat	4	Maize Starch	45	Fruit and Vegetables	22
Tomatoes	13	Melons and Tomatoes	21	Potatoes	36
Flour	7	Mixed Vegetables	17		

Also, there were 154 General cargoes containing varying quantities of the following foodstuffs in addition to non-edible cargo:

(Pork	Jams	Oranges
(Chicken	Cheese Spread	Vegetables
(Fruit	Grape Fruit	Olive Oil
(Duck	Lemons	Salami
(Tongue	Albumen Substitute	Chocolate
(Ham	Rusks	Lard
Tinned(Turkey	Apples	Wine
(Luncheon Meat	Fruit pulp	Liqueurs
(Milk	Dehydrated Vegetables	Spirits
(Kidneys	Barley	Beer
Onions in Brine	Fruit and Nuts	Dehydrated Chicken
Glace Cherries	Fruit Juice in Barrels	Chicken Fillet in glass jars
Pickled Gherkins		

Food condemned and destroyed:

112 x 14½ oz. tins Evaporated Milk	...	...	...	Damaged and Leaking
1 x 10 lb. tin Cooked Pork	...	...	...	Damaged tin
96 trays tomatoes	...	...	...	Contaminated with Fuel Oil
6 x 10 oz. + 19 x 14 oz. Tins Fruit	...	...	...	Tins punctured
14 x 7 oz.)	...	...	...	Damaged tins
3 x 4 lb.) Tins Luncheon Meat	...	...	...	Damaged tins
1 x 12 lb.)				
6 cases of 72 x 4½ oz. Boxes Cheese Spread	...			Immersed in River

Foods sampled for chemical analysis to detect the possible presence of preservatives, metallic content or harmful sprays:-

Chocolate	Lettuce
Albumen Substitute	Glace Cherries
Fruit Juice	Fruit Pulp
Maize Starch	Tinned Chicken

Samples submitted for bacteriological examination:-

Tinned Chicken	Tinned Ham	Dehydrated Chicken
----------------	------------	--------------------

All the samples proved satisfactory.

COLORADO BEETLE.

Again, this year, as in 1960 a colorado beetle and the larvae of a colorado beetle were found in two separate cargoes of potatoes arriving from Zeebrugge. A Representative of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food was contacted and took charge of both specimens.

MOSQUITOES.

Anti-mosquito measures have continued to be carried out on the local marshes under the direction of the Port Health Inspector. Numerous pools and collections of water have been treated where necessary and practicable. The spraying with D.D.T. has reduced the mosquito nuisance to negligible proportion.

L. F. MCWILLIAMS,

Port Medical Officer.

